

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALISTS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

What Hinders Reconstruction?

The great body of the American people earnestly desire an early and complete adjustment of all remaining difficulties connected with or growing out of our late civil war.

The Herald is the special organ of Johnson (for whose impeachment it fiercely clamored through the year which closed with last July) and Johnsonized Democracy.

Until quite recently, it seemed to be acknowledged that the Convention party must succeed, and that the only ground for Southern men to take was that of military necessity.

The hope of retraction in the North, and of Democratic ascendancy, has weakened the hope of defeating the Convention, and, from supineness and inactivity, the Southern leaders have launched upon an earnest campaign to secure their great object.

To-day a general meeting or convention is held in Jackson, to commence the organization of the White Man's party, and it may be expected in Mississippi for some time to come.

The methods adopted by these two great parties are in striking contrast. The one quiet, secret, and unobtrusive; the other noisy, and pledging their partisans to cooperation, with instructions which few will disregard.

The Vicksburg Herald delights to call the Republican Convention "The Baboon Convention," and others follow in the same style of graceful description.

—Here you see exactly why and how the Southern States are to be kept out of their proper place in the Union for years longer if "the white man's party" have power to achieve that result.

Mississippi has some 700,000 inhabitants, whereof nearly 400,000 are black. The Herald's reporter says there are 20,000 more black than white men in the State.

It is idle to pretend that the Republican party is not responsible for this state of affairs. The Republicans have had the sole control of the Government in all its branches ever since Grant put an end to the war.

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The despatches from Louisiana thus far received are too meagre in their statements of fact, and too evidently partisan in their origin, to warrant a positive conclusion as to the sufficiency and complexity of the voting in that State.

Concerning Alabama, a well-informed correspondent furnishes some suggestive points. There a more universal interest has been manifested in the work of reconstruction, as the large registration shows.

The causes which have doubtless diminished the vote in Louisiana, threaten also to operate adversely in Alabama. That a vast majority of the votes given will be for a Convention appears certain; but the remoteness of many thousands from the polling places may prove equivalent to disfranchisement.

On every ground it is to be hoped that neither in Alabama nor in any other State will such a result be realized. Its effect upon Congress and the country, and especially upon the South, would be most unfortunate, since it would not only delay reconstruction, but would invest it with fresh complications.

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next election which will not be observable elsewhere. Have the Republican Convention in the hands of Governor Fenton and his friends, refused to admit into their body the delegates of the conservative branch of the party in this city, representing the Seward and Morgan division, and treated a resolution to afford them an opportunity to be heard in defense of their rights in the organization with marked indignity and contempt.

The result of the election this fall is, in fact, life or death to Seward, Morgan, and their friends in this State. If the Fenton radicals, after shutting the conservatives finally out of the organization, can keep their vote in this city, there will be no chance of the rejected faction obtaining any recognition from the next Republican National Convention.

The States in which general elections are to be held next week are Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Iowa. Particular interest is felt in them from the fact that the results are supposed to foreshadow, in a measure, the results of the elections in November.

In Pennsylvania the only officer to be chosen by the State at large is the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, George Sharswood, being the Democratic and Henry W. Williams the Republican candidate. Judging from the tone of the Pennsylvania press, there is no dispute as to the qualifications of the two candidates for Chief Justice, it being conceded that Judge Sharswood is the superior, in every respect, of his opponent.

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In Iowa a full State ticket is to be chosen. The radical majority in this State for the past three years has been so overwhelming that it can hardly be expected that it will be overcome at the approaching election. Yet it can and probably will be materially reduced, unless the reaction in public sentiment which is so manifest in New England and California be not felt in this far Western State.

The facts and figures which are presented above afford great encouragement to the conservatives in the States of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Iowa. One week of the campaign remains. Let them use every hour of it to the best advantage, in the full assurance that a glad reward will await them when the polls shall be closed and the returns counted.

We confess that we share this national weakness, if weakness it be, and we own to having spent a good deal of time lately in trying to fix upon the great European whom Mr. Johnson most resembles. Nature seldom makes one thing of a kind, and just as she repeats King Solomon in Mr. Tupper, and Peeping Tom in Mr. Seward's friend McCracken, so we have all along felt that Andy Johnson must be a copy of somebody who has already lived and died.

Mr. Lowell, in his Fable for Critics, ridiculing our American Bove of finding a European prototype for every fellow-countryman who rises above mediocrity, says—

A whole flock of Lambs, a number of Tennysons— In short, if a man has the luck to have any soul, He may find a prototype of him in some one Will be some very great person over again.

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